

What is claimed is:

1. A method of performing a measurement on a biological fluid in a test strip comprising:

- providing a biological fluid test strip including
  - a capillary fill chamber extending a length along the test strip from an intake opening to a terminus,
  - a first pair of electrodes in operative communication with the chamber,
  - and
  - a second pair of electrodes in operative communication with the chamber;
- dosing the test strip with a biological fluid effective to cause the biological fluid to flow from the intake opening toward the terminus;
- applying a first test signal to one of the first pair of electrodes;
- measuring a first response to the first test signal at the other of the first pair of electrodes;
- maintaining the first pair of electrodes in an inoperative state upon the measuring the first response;
- applying a second test signal to one of the second pair of electrodes;
- measuring a second response to the second test signal at the other of the second pair of electrodes; and
- performing a measurement upon the biological fluid after the measuring the second response.

2. The method of claim 1 wherein the measuring the first response to the first test signal is effective to indicate a contact of the first pair of electrodes and the biological fluid.

3. The method of claim 1 wherein the measuring the second response to the second test signal is effective to indicate a contact of the second pair of electrodes and the biological fluid.

4. The method of claim 1 wherein the measuring the first response to the first test signal is effective to indicate a contact of the first pair of electrodes and the biological fluid and the measuring the second response to the second test signal is effective to indicate a contact of the second pair of electrodes and the biological fluid.

5. The method of claim 1 wherein the performing a measurement upon the biological fluid includes applying a measurement test signal to one of the first pair of electrodes.

6. The method of claim 1 further comprising providing a pair of measurement electrodes in operative communication with the chamber wherein the performing a measurement upon the biological fluid includes applying a measurement test signal to one of the measurement electrodes.

7. A method of indicating acceptable fill time of a biological fluid in a test strip comprising:

providing a biological fluid test strip including

a capillary fill chamber extending a length along the test strip from an intake opening to a terminus,

a first pair of electrodes in operative communication with the chamber,  
and

a second pair of electrodes in operative communication with the chamber;

dosing the test strip with a biological fluid effective to cause the biological fluid to flow from the intake opening toward the terminus;

flowing a biological fluid from the opening toward the terminus;

first determining when the biological fluid contacts the first electrodes;

second determining when the biological fluid contacts the second electrodes;

determining a fill time value based upon the first determining and the second determining; and

comparing the fill time value to a predetermined value.

8. The method of claim 7 further comprising:

indicating an error condition if the fill time value exceeds the predetermined value.

9. The method of claim 7 further comprising:

indicating an error condition if the fill time value is greater than or equal to the predetermined value.

10. The method of claim 7 further comprising:

performing a measurement upon the biological fluid if the fill time value is less than the predetermined value.

11. The method of claim 7 further comprising:

performing a measurement upon the biological fluid if the fill time value is less than or equal to the predetermined value.